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Message Text

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53
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 COME-00

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---------- 109401
R 301539Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8962

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 10984

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, FR
SUBJ: FRENCH GOVERNMENT QUESTIONNAIRE ON U.S. PRODUCT STANDARDS CERTIFICATIONS

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED CIRCULAR LETTER FROM FRENCH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH ENCLOSING LENGTHY QUESTIONNAIRE ON U.S. PRACTICES IN FIELD OF QUALITY CONTROL AND CERTIFICATION OF VARIOUS KINDS OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS, INCLUDING DRUGS. MINISTRY REQUESTS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE BY END OF MAY. SURVEY IS APPARENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE FRENCH LEGISLATION IN THIS FIELD.

2. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF QUESTIONNAIRE FOLLOWS:

QUESTIONNAIRE ON PRODUCT QUALIFICATION

INFORMATIVE LABELLING

IS INFORMATIVE LABELLING MANDATORY ON CERTAIN WIDELY-USED CONSUMER GOODS (FOOD, TEXTILES, HOUSE-KEEPING PRODUCTS, ELECTRICAL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES)?

WHEN NOT MANDATORY, IS IT NONETHELESS CUSTOMARY?

WHO DEFINES THE INDICATIONS TO BE PRINTED ON AN INFORMATIVE LABEL AND THEIR CONTROL (THE PRODUCER,
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STATE AUTHORITIES OR BILATERAL PRODUCER-CONSUMER

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

CONSULTATION ORGANIZATIONS)?

ARE THE VALUES PRINTED ON THE LABELS UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRODUCER OR OF A CERTIFYING ORGANIZATION, INDEPENDENT OF THE PRODUCER?

HOW ARE THE VALUES SHOWN ON THE LABELS CONTROLLED (SPECIALIZED GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES, CONSUMERS COMMITTEES, LABORATORIES)?

WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR FALSE INDICATIONS (FINES, BOYCOTT)?

QUALITY LABEL

IS THERE SUCH A THING AS "QUALITY LABEL" ATTRIBUTED TO A PRODUCT BY AN ORGANIZATION INDEPENDENT OF THE PRODUCER AND WARRANTING ITS CONFORMITY WITH CERTAIN STANDARDS OR WITH SPECIFICATIONS? IF THIS IS THE CASE, PLEASE INDICATE THE PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO THIS PROCEDURE.

HOW ARE THE CERTIFYING ORGANIZATIONS STAFFED? DO THEY INCLUDE CONSUMERS' REPRESENTATIVES?

ARE THOSE CERTIFYING ORGANIZATIONS CONTROLLED BY THE STATE AUTHORITIES? HOW?

DO THE STATE AUTHORITIES CONTROL THE CONFORMITY OF

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10984 02 OF 02 301549Z

53
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THE PRODUCTS, TO WHICH A QUALITY LABEL IS ATTRIBUTED, WITH THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THIS LABEL? HOW? WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR NON-CONFORMITY?

COMPARATIVE TESTS

ARE THERE ANY COMPARATIVE TESTS INITIATED BY CONSUMERS ASSOCIATIONS? BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS?

WHERE ARE THEY CARRIED OUT (LABORATORIES CONTROLLED BY CONSUMERS ASSOCIATIONS, OFFICIAL LABORATORIES)?

IS THERE A REGULATION GOVERNING COMPARATIVE TESTS?

WHAT GOVERNS THE TEST METHODS (SPECIFICATIONS; METHODS SPECIFIC TO THE LABORATORY)?

LABORATORIES

ARE THERE ANY OFFICIAL LABORATORIES SPECIALIZED IN PRODUCT QUALITY CONTROL (AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL)? WHICH ARE THEY? HOW MANY EMPLOYEES ARE ON THEIR STAFF?

WHO IS INITIATING THEIR ACTION: STATE AUTHORITIES; CONSUMERS ASSOCIATIONS; PRODUCERS?

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ON WHICH TYPE OF PRODUCTS DO THEY CARRY OUT TESTS?

SOME QUALITY CONTROL TESTS MUST BE MADE ON PRODUCTS DIRECTLY TAKEN FROM THE FACTORY. WHO DECIDES ON THE PRODUCTS TO BE CONTROLLED?

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONS WITH FRENCH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, REQUEST DEPARTMENT UNDERTAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO OBTAIN ANSWERS FROM FDA, OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, AND OTHER PERTINENT AGENCIES IN TIME TO MEET DEADLINE.
RUSH

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